

## I-5 – South 317<sup>th</sup> Street HOV Direct Access Project Update

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Welcome to the project update newsletter for the Interstate 5 - South 317<sup>th</sup> Street HOV Direct Access Project. This is the first weekly update for the \$44.5 million Federal Way project, on which construction began in June 2004.

In this project the Washington State Department of Transportation and Sound Transit are teaming up to build on- and off-ramps in the I-5 median and a new bridge over the southbound lanes to connect I-5 HOV lanes directly to South 317<sup>th</sup> Street and the new Federal Way Transit Center. The ramps will let buses and carpools avoid the congested South 320<sup>th</sup> Street/ I-5 interchange and will improve HOV speed and reliability. We're also extending northbound and southbound I-5 HOV lanes from their current end at Military Road to south of South 320<sup>th</sup> Street, and improving southbound I-5 pavement between Military Road and South 320<sup>th</sup> Street. The project is scheduled to open to traffic in October 2005.

For project details and construction photos, visit the project Web site at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/I5\\_S317th\\_DirectAccess/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/I5_S317th_DirectAccess/).

### Construction Update

Two months into construction, progress on the project is already quite evident. Heading south on I-5 through Federal Way, drivers will see construction of a **bridge support** and a **retaining wall** to the right (west) at South 317<sup>th</sup> Street. The bridge across the southbound lanes will rest on two supports: one on the west side of the southbound lanes and one in the freeway median. These supports are the first major step in constructing the bridge, to be followed by bridge girder placement.

Traveling north, drivers may notice machines excavating for a new **detention pond** just before South 320<sup>th</sup> Street. Crews will build three of these large water quality treatment ponds on this project to help capture and clean roadway run-off. This is just one way this project maintains and improves the quality of the environment.

Another piece of this project is the widening of the Military Road Bridge (about a mile north of South 320<sup>th</sup> Street). Crews have already **drilled shafts** for the new bridge supports and will soon begin construction on those supports.

The project is 17 percent complete.

## **Southbound I-5 Single Lane Closures**

Southbound drivers should anticipate daily single lane closures for construction of bridge supports for the South 317<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge.

## **Upcoming Traffic Shift on Southbound I-5**

Crews are currently building a temporary roadway in the freeway median near South 317<sup>th</sup> Street. This fall, we'll shift southbound traffic to this temporary roadway to provide more room for South 317<sup>th</sup> Street bridge support construction.

## **Highway Advisory Radio Updates**

We've begun an innovative communications effort on this project. As drivers pass through the project area, they can hear weekly construction updates on the project by tuning their radio to the WSDOT Highway Advisory Radio on AM 1520.

## **“Start of Construction” Celebration**

On Wednesday, Sept. 1, Sound Transit hosted a “start of construction” celebration for the I-5 - South 317th Street HOV Direct Access Project and the Federal Way Transit Center. Event speakers included emcee and King County Councilmember Pete Von Reichbauer, US Senator Patty Murray, US Representative Adam Smith, Sound Transit Board Chair and Pierce County Executive John W. Ladenburg, Federal Way Mayor Dean McColgan, Washington State Senator Tracy Eide and WSDOT Secretary of Transportation Doug MacDonald.

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